

Writing Killer Fiction: The Mystery Writer's Craft

Developed and Presented by
Jane K. Cleland

Thrillers, traditional mysteries, cozies, spy stories, private eyes...all mysteries in all genres share these qualities: the plot is engaging; the characters are believable; and the narrative flows and draws readers into the story. This workshop will provide an overview of the craft of writing suspenseful page-turners.

Topics presented will include the following:

- About Plot: When and how to introduce the “narrative question”; how to plant clues and red herrings; and how to avoid “saggy middles.”
- About Characterization: How to create a protagonist with enough depth to carry your mystery; how to integrate your characters’ back stories into the narrative seamlessly; and how to develop memorable secondary and tertiary characters.
- About Narrative: How to balance dialogue, description, and action; and the difference between suspense and surprise, and when to use which.

This workshop, which will include a brief in-class writing exercise, is appropriate for writers at all levels. You’ll leave this introductory session inspired to write your own can’t-put-it-down mystery!

Jane is the author of the Independent Mystery Bookseller Association best-selling and multiple award nominated Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series. [St. Martin’s Minotaur] The traditional mystery series, which has been called an *Antiques Roadshow* for mystery fans, is set on the rugged seacoast of New Hampshire where Jane owned an antiques business for many years. The 2009 Mystery Writer in Residence at Manhattanville College, Jane is also the author of two mystery short stories, including the Agatha- and Anthony-nominated “Killing Time.” Her books have been translated into Russian and Hungarian. Jane is the chair of the Wolfe Pack’s literary awards www.nerowolfe.org and is a past president and current board member of the Mystery Writers of America/New York Chapter. She is also a member of Sisters in Crime. She and her husband live in New York City. www.janeclendland.net

For more information or to register, please contact:

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